

WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 18, 2011

Advisory Council Discusses Final US Coast Guard Port Access Route Study for Los Angeles/Long Beach

LT Lucas Mancini from the US Coast Guard's District 11 office provided a presentation on the Port Access Route Study (PARS) for approaches to LA/Long Beach, including the Santa Barbara Channel region. LT Mancini presented the PARS recommendations and reported that the Coast Guard took into account whale information received from NOAA, both the National Marine Fisheries Service and Sanctuaries. LT Mancini explained that the Coast Guard is recommending a shift of 1nm north within the existing Santa Barbara Channel traffic separation scheme, reducing the separation zone from 2nm to 1nm, which is standard. This would have the effect of moving the south-bound lane 1nm north, further from island shores and some suspected whale concentration areas. He also explained and showed a map of the proposed route running east-west from the ports of LA/LB. LT Mancini explained that the PARS recommendations are now under review by USCG headquarters. LT Mancini reported that, possibly by next summer, the USCG will begin a federal rule-making process that will involve public input and formal consultations with federal agencies. The process will also require IMO approval, LT Mancini explained, and would likely last at least two years. Council discussion focused on clarification of the multiple air pollution regulations and their timelines for implementation; clarification concerning the Coast Guard's limited jurisdiction over ship speeds; the regulations for large tankers which typically transit much farther offshore; how AIS data is used to track ships and can sometimes be misleading (e.g., when vessels don't adjust their intended port destination); the need for robust environmental review concerning possible new routes south of the Channel Islands; and small boat cross traffic concerns and risks. LT Mancini said that although vessel traffic patterns may change again, he did not expect the Coast Guard's starting recommendations to change as they begin a rule-making process. He also said that the rule-making process will be intense and the Sanctuary Advisory Council's input will be useful.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 17, 2011

Council Adopts National Policy on Member Term Limits

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council amended the Council's charter to include the new National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council policy on member term limits. Non-governmental members will not be selected to serve more than three consecutive terms on the Council. Each term will be three years in length, with a total of nine years of service possible on the council.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

October 6, 2011

Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council holds Annual Retreat

On Thursday, October 6, the Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council held their annual retreat at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The retreat is a combination of council business, such as reviewing last year's accomplishments and planning for the next fiscal year, and pleasure. The council drafted their FY 2012 Work Plan, as well as evaluated their FY 2011 Work Plan. Council members also had the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Academy, as well as hear presentations from staff researchers. Many stayed late into the evening to enjoy the Sharktoberfest Nightlife and planetarium showing.

November 10, 2011

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Supports Northward Boundary Expansion

At the November 10, 2011 council meeting, the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a resolution in support of boundary expansion for the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and requested it be transmitted to the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. This bill was first introduced by Representative Woolsey in the 108th Congress and was re-introduced every session thereafter. On April 19, 2007 (during the 110th Congress) the sanctuary advisory council passed a similar resolution in support of H.R. 1187. The council has renewed their support of this same bill in the 112th Congress by passing this resolution.

Council Forms Fisheries Policy Subcommittee

At their November 10, 2011 council meeting, Superintendent Brown requested that the advisory council create a Fisheries Policy Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee is to develop a clear, consistent policy on how the advisory council wishes to engage on fisheries issues. The chair of the subcommittee will be the council's Vice Chair and Primary Commercial Maritime seat, Barbara Emley. Barbara is a commercial fisherman and has recently been appointed to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

December 8, 2011

Advisory Council Approves Letter of Support for the California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

At the December 2011 meeting, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a letter to Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, and Louisa Koch, NOAA Office of Education Director, requesting allocation be placed into the NOAA budget with other B-WET programs to be administered through the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The letter provided several quotes from organizations affected by the loss of B-WET funding.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 18, 2011

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council held a meeting via teleconference after a planned joint meeting with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council was cancelled due to the death of a cohort. The Advisory Council identified 2012 meeting locations, began discussion of its 2012 work plan.

Council Finalizes Revision of Council Charter

The Olympic Coast sanctuary's Advisory Council is now operating under a revised charter developed by a council subcommittee, which provided a thorough review and revision of the charter. The revised charter, now approved by the Director of the Office on National Marine Sanctuaries, adds seats for state-sponsored, community-based marine resource committees and U.S. Geological Survey, and clarifies the term time periods for each elected seat. A youth seat on the Council will be considered at a future date.

Council Recruits for Several Open Seats

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary recruited candidates for the Conservation, Research, Marine Business/Ports/Industry, Chamber of Commerce/Tourism/Recreation, and Commercial Fishing (alternate only) seats on its Advisory Council. Applications were received from a number of candidates with impressive qualifications and broad professional expertise. A candidate review subcommittee reviewed applications and recommended new council members, who were vetted and approved by the Director of the Office on National Marine Sanctuaries. There will be six new and three returning council members seated at the January 20, 2012 council meeting.
